

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 May 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Insurgency in Laos and Iran

1. Laos

- a. Scattered shelling continues in the Plaine des Jarres area. Kong Le forces and supporting rightist elements have abandoned efforts to retake lost positions and are now concentrating on defense. Indications are that the Communist forces are steadily improving their posture for possible further action against Kong Le. The chaotic logistical and command structures of Kong Le's forces make them particularly vulnerable to a Communist push which could develop at any time without advance warning.
- b. The political situation remains deadlocked. An appeal for restoration of relations among the Lao factions is awaited from the Geneva co-chairmen, but it is at least questionable how much effect this will have on the situation.

2. Iran

- a. Government action against dissident bands of tribesmen in the area north and west of Shiraz is confined to attempts to capture the remaining hostile groups and occasional air bombing and strafing of suspected tribal encampments. Some of the ground action is now being carried out by irregular forces--most likely progovernment tribesmen. Government forces are still suffering casualties, however, probably in connection with efforts to destroy the illegal poppy crop before it

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is ready for harvesting. [redacted]
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- b. Timely distribution of food in tribal areas combined with the use of negotiators in whom the tribal leaders have confidence appears to have prevented, at least for the time being, the spread of the insurrection among the Qashqai, who are now in their summer pasture area northwest of Shiraz. Tehran is showing increased concern, however, over "comings and goings" of tribesmen in Iranian Kurdistan, and may now be prepared to close the border with Iraq in the event of renewed Kurdish-Iraqi fighting.

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